

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

(RIPARIAN AUTHORITY)

1960



STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. M.S.Harvey, M.B.,CH.B.,D.P.H.
Appointed 1.11.51 - Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Inspector - F.W.I.Whitehouse, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Appointed 14.1.46 - Chief Public Health
Inspector.

Address and Telephone Number of Medical Officer of Health:-

Office - 14 Dane Johm, Canterbury. Canterbury 4412
Home - "The Gables", Stodmarsh Rd.
Canterbury. Canterbury 3391

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING 1960

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		No. of ships reported as having had infectious disease on board during voyage
			By M.O.H.	By P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports	76	18,540		12	-
Coastwise	239	36,793		29	-
Total	315	55,333		41	-

CHARACTER OF SHIPPING

There was no passenger traffic during the year.

Cargo traffic was concerned with:-

Imports: Cereals, Sand, Slag, Stone, Canned milk, cream & meat.
Exports: Durite, barley and wheat.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:

London, Colchester, Guernsey, Middlesborough, Keadby
with foreign vessels from Esbjerg, Rotterdam, Antwerp.

There is no inland barge traffic.

WATER SUPPLY

The Harbour receives the town mains supply which is a good chalk water in the ownership of the Canterbury & District Water Company, which is chlorinated before distribution.

The supply to shipping is from hydrants on the quay which are protected and have been found on inspection to be satisfactory. The hose pipe for supplying water to ships was renewed during the year and provided with more satisfactory storage accommodation.

Two samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination were of a satisfactory nature

The Authority has no water boats.

Hygiene Arrangements

There is an entire absence of washing facilities but provision of communal facilities for use of harbour users and to meet the requirements of the new Hygiene Regulations are being considered by the Council.

A sanitary block containing W.C's. is available to Harbour users by application to the Harbour Foreman for the key.

A Public Bathing Station is available in the town within a quarter of a mile of the harbour.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

A list of infected areas is maintained by the Medical Officer of Health and is kept up to date by reference to the information supplied to him as Medical Officer of Health, Sandwich, by the Minister. H.M. Customs receive such information from the port of Faversham in whose area they are situated.

There are no local radio arrangements for sending permission to enter or for receiving advance notice from ships or acting thereon.

Notice of the arrival of ships from foreign ports is received from the Harbour Master and the Shipping Agent.

The standing direction for the mooring of an infected or unhealthy ships is "off the East Quay, shored off", as agreed with H.M. Customs in June 1934, but it is quite impracticable, in view of the direction of the channel, to have shipping moored off the East Quay. However, an arrangement is understood to be still applicable that any ship in which there is suspicion of infection or the presence of infectious disease shall anchor off Shellness, Isle of Sheppey, to allow clearance before entry. No record is available of such a direction having been issued under Regulations, but it has the standing of war time practice for this district.

Cases of infectious disease go to Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts of cases of infectious disease would be carried out through Medical Officers of Health at destinations, and local surveillance is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy. There is no passenger traffic from foreign parts.

A chemical disinfectant is situated within easy access of the Harbour. Cleansing facilities for infested persons can be provided readily at the disinfecting station. Disinfection on board ship would be done by gaseous disinfection followed by cleaning down.

SMALLPOX

Cases go to the Rivers Hospital, Long Reach, Dartford.

Such cases are transported by the Canterbury Joint Ambulance Service for whose vaccinal state the Medical Officer of Health, as M.O.H. of Canterbury, is responsible. The nearest smallpox consultants are:-

Dr. W.J. Coughlan, Joyce Green Hospital Dartford. Telephone No. Dartford 3231
and

Dr. J.A. Marsden, Rivers Hospital, Joyce Green, Dartford.

Telephone Numbers - Hospital Dartford 3231
Home Dartford 2443

The facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox are centred on the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9, Telephone No. Colindale 7041. Supplies of the necessary equipment for collecting specimens are held at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital Laboratory and the Canterbury Health Department.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The nearest treatment centre is the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, at which out-patient and in-patient facilities are available.

Males	-	Tuesday	..	3.0.p.m.	to	4.0.p.m.
Females	-	Tuesday	..	2.0.p.m.	to	3.0.p.m.

This information is available at the Council Offices and at the Harbour.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

No cases of notifiable or other infectious disease are known to have occurred in the port area during 1960.

No cases of malaria were identified.

No cases of plague were suspected or occurred.



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RODENT CONTROL

The port is not approved for the purpose of granting deratisation or exemption certificates. Ships in the harbour and the harbour precincts are inspected for rats and the checking of certificates.

No rats were sent for pathological examination. The appropriate laboratory is the Public Health Laboratory Service, Preston Hall, Maidstone.

INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

Inspections and Notices

Nature and No. of inspections.	Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Public Health and Rodent Control 45	Nil	Nil	-

SHELLFISH LAYINGS

The collection of molluscs takes place on the Seasalter flats and the Whitstable Oyster beds are in the sea off the port. These collecting areas have never been suspect as sources of danger to health, but the authority has taken informal action from time to time to examine the fish after cleansing or processing, and has found them acceptable for human consumption.

The two local oyster fisheries cleanse the oysters by ultra violet rays and settled sea water process and an excellent oyster is marketed.

BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Bodies can be accommodated in the public mortuary. Subsequent burial can be supervised by the Public Health Inspector who, as Officer for the burial of the unclaimed dead, is in touch with the undertakers of such burial.
